

Skillset Film Lab – Take 3 Information Sheet

Welcome to Skillset Film Lab - Take 3.

We believe this is the most advanced and creatively exciting programme of skills development we've ever run for film actors. Spurred on by the success of Film Lab Take 2, our aim is to empower actors to give confident and daring performances on film by increasing their knowledge of the medium as a whole, not just their role within it.

Between now and April 2009, we will run six short film projects with six leading directors, each tailored to the casting of six actors and each shot on location with professional crew support. Each project will give the actors a 360-degree insight into the film process, including those aspects of it they are usually excluded from – the scripting and the edit. During the course of the project, actors will also be assigned production and crewing roles, enabling a better grasp of technical issues. At the end of the process a screening of the finished film attended by industry professionals will give the opportunity for in-depth feedback and evaluation.

Confirmed directors include Suri Krishnamma, Sue Dunderdale and Rikki Beadle Blair, who has just been awarded Best Short Film at the Rushes Soho Shorts.

Who can apply?

The Skillset Film Lab – Take 3 is open to actors who can demonstrate substantial previous training and professional experience, as well as some previous experience of working on screen.

This project seeks to address under-representation of certain groups in the film industry and we actively encourage applications from Black and Minority Ethnic actors and disabled actors.

What will the project involve?

Day 1: Led by the writer and director you will work together in various group combinations, improvising characters and scenes inspired by the locations and scenarios given to you.

Over the next two weeks the writer will script a 10 minute short film based on the characters, scenes and story devised collaboratively on the first day.

Day 2: This day will focus on rehearsing and fine tuning the new script and creating a storyboard for the following two days shooting. Crewing responsibilities will be assigned for the shoot.

Day 3: This will be the first shoot day on location. There will be opportunities to become familiar with your crewing responsibilities and the technical equipment, assisted by the Director, a Camera Operator and a Sound Recordist. Job responsibilities will be passed around as the group move between cast and crew as the scene allocation dictates. Individuals will take on the roles of Assistant Director, Script Supervisor, Assistant Sound Recordist, Lighting Assistant and Camera Assistant.

Day 4: Filming will continue in the same manner.

Day 5: This will be a half day, spent with the Editor and Director. They will demonstrate the basic techniques of the system, pointing out the problems continuity errors can cause, the importance of good sound collection and other issues. You will also observe the Editor assembling and cutting footage and will be encouraged to ask questions to further your understanding of the process. Pick-up shots, voice-overs and ADR will be undertaken as necessary.

Day 6: When the editing is at a more advanced stage you will again join the Editor and Director for another half day. Different aspects of the process will be more clearly demonstrable at this stage and it will give you a chance to reflect on how qualities of your performance affect the editing process.

Please note these days are not consecutive but will run over the course of a month.

Screening: Within two weeks of the final day of the workshop, a screening will be held for the participants, your friends and family and invited guests. This will also be an opportunity to feedback about the process.

Final event: At the end of the whole project there will be a screening of all six films, with a drinks reception, with key industry figures invited. This is currently planned for April 2009.

How much will it cost?

Participants will pay £200 to take part in the project. There are a limited number of hardship bursaries available. Please let us know at the point of application if you would like to be considered for one of these.

Applications and Auditions

Deadline for applications for the first phase is Wednesday 17th September 2008. Auditions will be held on 29th Sep – 1st Oct 2008. Further auditions for the second phase of Take 3 will be held in December 2008.

Application packs are available by calling 020 7808 7088 or emailing admin@actorscentre.co.uk or can be downloaded from our website www.actorscentre.co.uk/filmlabtake3.asp

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